

# Sustainability Commission

## Notes from June 1 2009 meeting



**Notes from the Sustainability Commission meeting – June 1, 2009 @4:30 pm following a presentation by Roger E. Eastman, AICP on the zoning code rewrite/update project.**

Some ideas for incorporating a sustainability theme throughout the new zoning code include:

- Redefine the City's conventionally established and laid out subdivisions (such as Continental, University Heights, etc.) as future TNDs and walkable neighborhoods. [This is really more of a Regional Plan issue than a zoning code issue]
- Portland, OR – how did they create the Mall in downtown?
- Think about applying sustainable practices based on Transect Zones
- Make access to reclaimed water easier for residential developments, especially SFR which tends to be a greater user of water because of the need for watering landscaping
- Solar access – ensure buildings do not shade other buildings or solar facilities. Perhaps setbacks could be eliminated? Consider allowing community alternate energy facilities – i.e. establish a special location within a neighborhood or community for solar panels, wind turbines, etc. This could be an “energy special district”?
- Need for more bicycle police in neighborhoods – better/more efficient way of patrolling in higher density neighborhoods
- Important to reinforce and allow localized food production
  - Need for an extensive network of community gardens
  - Allow chickens
  - Community gardens should be permitted by zoning
  - Review the Denver and Detroit codes
- Consider relaxing the setbacks for green houses
- Community gardens are ideally located in flood basins and detention area
- Importance of block design and street layout relative to solar access, prevailing winds, etc.
- Allow for bike racks on sidewalks – may need wider sidewalks as a result
- Reduced street widths slow traffic and have numerous other advantages – economic benefits because stores often do better, less asphalt, less run-off, etc.

- LID (Low Impact Development) – needs to be reinforced and promoted in the new code
  - A consideration: use rainwater gathered from roofs for vegetable gardens and surface collected rainwater from parking areas and roads for other landscaping
- Explore more public transportation options – e.g., a trolley to link hotels
- Guide more growth to the west of the City to take advantage of the opportunities for using reclaimed water in that area of the City [This is more of a Regional Plan issue ...]
- Other notes:
  - Sustainable Development Code – [www.law.du.edu/rmlui](http://www.law.du.edu/rmlui)
  - Add Sustainability Commission to regular mailing list
  - Include Sustainability Commission in the synoptic survey (micro-scale documentation) of potential Form-based Code areas in the City.